



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/674,870	12/18/2000	Gurbinder Singh Kalsi-	60,130-925	7086

7590

01/25/2002

Carlson Gaskey & Olds
Suite 350
400 W Maple
Birmingham, MI 48009

EXAMINER

WALSH, JOHN B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/674,870

Applicant(s)

GURBINDER SINGH KALSI

Examiner

John B. Walsh

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7. 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: replace "a" with "the" before "pawl". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the latch" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 3 - replace "a" with "the" before "pawl".

Claim 4 - replace "its" with "the" before "first".

Claim 6 - replace "its" with "the" before "first".

Claim 13 - replace "its" with "the" before "second" and replace "its" with "the" before "first".

Claim 14 - replace "its" with "the" before "first".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

Art Unit: 3629

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-7, 10-14 and 18-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,676,003 to Ursel et al.

Ursel et al. '003 discloses a housing (15); a pawl (23) mounted in the housing to release a latch (20); at least one of an inside and outside lock link (33,32) mounted for movement with the pawl with the at least one lock link being movable between a first position at (column 5, lines 29-40) which operation of an associated release means (53) causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position (column 5, lines 4-10) at which operation of the associated release means does not cause movement of the pawl.

As concerns claim 2, the pawl is rotatably mounted in the housing (figure 1).

As concerns claim 3, a pawl lifter (28,27) is connected to the pawl and the at least one lock link is mounted on the pawl lifter (figure 2).

As concerns claim 4, the at least one lock link is pivotally mounted for rotational movement between the first and second positions (figure 7 and 9).

As concerns claim 5, the at least one lock link is mounted for movement with the pawl (figure 7 and 9).

As concerns claim 6, indexing of a cam (44) effects movement of the at least one lock link between the first and second positions.

As concerns claim 7, the cam is rotationally mounted for indexing (figures 5 and 6).

As concerns claim 10, indexing of the cam effects movement of both the inside and outside lock link between the first and second positions (column 5, lines 25-26).

As concerns claim 11, the cam has a plurality of lobes (47,48).

Art Unit: 3629

As concerns claim 12, the release means is capable of indexing the cam to move at least one of the lock links between the first and second positions (column 5, lines 29-40).

As concerns claim 13, the release means is capable of indexing the cam to move at least one of the lock links from the second position to the first position (column 5, lines 29-40).

As concerns claim 14, movement of the at least one lock link between the first and second position is effected by a power actuator (50; column 1, lines 5-14 and column 1, lines 26-27).

As concerns claim 18, the latch mechanism having a set of operating modes, each mode having alternate states, the set including at least one of a lock mode and a super lock mode (column 4, lines 4-5), and at least one of a child safety mode and a release mode (column 4, lines 7-10), changing of the latch mechanism between alternate states of each of the at least two modes of the set being effected by a single power actuator (50).

As concerns claim 19, the set includes the lock mode and the super lock mode (column 4, lines 4-5) and at least one of the child safety mode and release mode (column 4, lines 7-10).

As concerns claim 20, the set includes at least one of the lock mode and the super lock mode (column 4, lines 4-5) and both of the child safety mode (column 5, line 14) and release mode (column 4, lines 7-10).

As concerns claim 21, the latch mechanism having a set of operating modes, each mode having alternate states, the set including a child safety mode (column 5, line 14) and a release mode (column 4, lines 7-10), changing of the latch mechanism between alternate states of each of the modes being effected by a single power actuator (50).

As concerns claim 22, a latch mechanism (10) having a set of operating modes, each mode having alternate states, the set including at least one of a lock mode and a super lock mode (column 4, lines 4-5), and at least one of a child safety mode and a release mode (column 4, lines 7-10), changing of the latch mechanism between alternate states of each of the at least two modes of the set being effected by a single power actuator (50).

As concerns claim 23, the set includes the lock mode (column 2, lines 53-54) and the super lock mode (column 4, lines 4-5) and at least one of the child safety mode and release mode (column 4, lines 7-10).

As concerns claim 24, the set includes at least one of the lock mode and the super lock mode (column 4, lines 4-5) and both of the child safety mode (column 5, line 14) and release mode (column 4, lines 7-10).

As concerns claim 25, a latch mechanism (10) having a set of operating modes, each mode having alternate states, the set including a child safety mode (column 5, line 14) and a release mode (column 4, lines 7-10), changing of the latch mechanism between alternate states of each of the modes being effected by a single power actuator (50).

As concerns claim 26, a vehicle body (column 2, line 31) including a first and second door (column 2, line 32), each door including respective first and second latch mechanisms (10) as defined in claim 1, each mechanism being operable by respective first and second power actuators (50) to give respective first and second sets of operating modes, each mode having alternate states, and control of the power actuators being different to provide for different first and second sets of operating modes (abstract).

Art Unit: 3629

As concerns claim 27, the first and second latch mechanisms are substantially the same (10; column 2, lines 31-32).

As concerns claim 28, a vehicle (column 2, line 31) including a first and second door (column 2, line 32), each door including respective first and second latch mechanisms (10), the first and second latch mechanisms are substantially the same (column 2, lines 31-33), and being operable by respective first and second power actuators (50) to give respective first and second sets of operating modes, each mode having alternate states, and control of the power actuators being different to provide for different first and second sets of operating modes (abstract).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 8, 9 and 15-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claims 8, 9 and 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Walsh whose telephone number is 703-305-0444. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30-6:00.

Art Unit: 3629

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on 703-308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3597 for regular communications and 703-305-3597 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2168.



Lynne Browne
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3620

JW
January 22, 2002